THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): A proposal to open new Passport Offices during 1992-93 is under consideration. The number and location will depend on the available additional financial and manpower resources.

Exploration of Oil at Cochin High

2658. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state the achievements made in exploration of oil at Cochin High during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Two wells have been drilled so far, but no hydrocarbons have been discovered.

[*Translation*]

Exploration of Oil and Natural Gas in Madhya Pradesh

2659. SHRI PHOOL CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any scheme of Indian Oil Corporation to explore oil and natural gas in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the places where oil and natural gas has been found in the state?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No commercial oil/gas discoveries has been made so far in Madhya Pradesh.

[*English*]

Development of Pepper Cultivation

2660. SHRI PALA K.M. MATHEW: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate master plan for the cultivation, encouragement and development of pepper in Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the financial assistance proposed to be given to Kerala for development of pepper cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). There is no specific proposal of formulating a master plan for cultivation, encouragement and development of pepper in Kerala. However, the Government of Kerala has recently prepared a project proposal for pepper development in Kerala at a cost of Rs. 160.92 crores phased over a period of seven years for external assistance. The main components of the project are rehabilitation of existing gardens, area expansion, strengthening of extension activities and research etc. The aim is to achieve a production target of 1.05 lakh tonnes of pepper by 2000 A.D.

(c) The quantum of financial assistance to Government of Government of Kerala for development of pepper cultivation during 1992-93 and 8th Plan (1992-97) has not yet been finalised. However, an amount of Rs. 337.04 lakh has been allocated out of which Rs. 330.30 lakh has already been released during 1991-92 to the Government of Kerala for development of pepper cultivation under the scheme "Integrated Proggramme for the development of Spices".

Export of Red Chillies to Shri Lanka

2661. SHRI HARIN PATHAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NAFED had suffered huge loss on export of Red Chillies to Shri Lanka;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether enquiry has been conducted into the matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Migration from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

2662. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to take steps to stop migration of people from the mainland in the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also proposed to introduce "Permit System" for tourists visiting Andaman and Nicobar Islands;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the primitive tribes including Jawars, Onges and Thesectineles are facing extinction; and

(f) if so, the action being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) to (d). The problem of uncontrolled growth of population of the Government for some time. A Sub-Group constituted at the instance of the Island Development Authority - a high powered problem in 1987-88 had not recommended any legal measures to contain uncontrolled influx of population. However, any such decision would require detailed examination of various factors including the legal and constitutional ones, in consulation with other Central Ministries.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) Does not arise.

Illegal Immigrants from Bangladesh

2663. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh apprehended on the Indo-Bangladesh border during 1991, sector-wise, and

(b) the number of such immigrants pushed back into Bangladesh and those handed over to the local authorities for legal action during the above period, separately?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) 61,888 illegal immigrants from Bangladesh were apprehended on the Indo-Bangladesh Border during 1991. The Sector-wise breakup is given below:-

Calcutta	52626
Krishnanagar	2902
Malda	1419
Kishanganj	334
Siliguri	477
Cooch Behar	776
Guwahati	62
Shillong	377